

**PARK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

414 E. Callender, Livingston, MT 59047 • Ph. 406-222-4106, Fax 406-222-4160  
www.parkcounty.org • Email: commissioners@parkcounty.org

Senate Fish and Game Committee

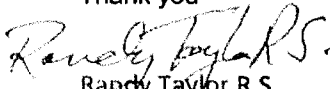
Dear Committee Members:

The Park County Commission is in favor of Senate Bill 212 that will require the department of Fish Wildlife and Parks to develop and adopt a management plan before any wild buffalo or bison under the department's jurisdiction may be released or transplanted onto private or public land in Montana.

The Department is currently attempting to control more than 70 bison in Southern Park County without a plan that has been reviewed by local government. They only tell us what they have done after the fact.

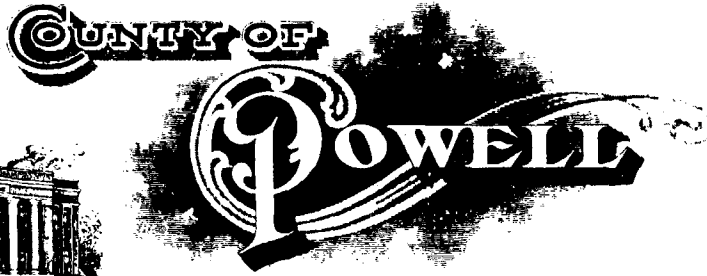
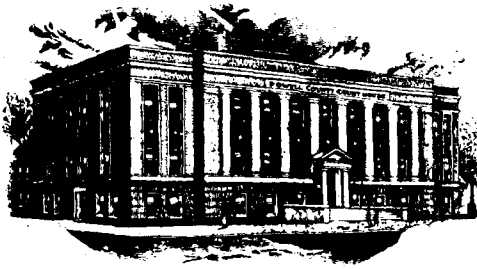
We recommend DO PASS for this bill.

Thank you

  
Randy Taylor R.S.  
County Commissioner

  
James Durgan  
County Commissioner

  
Marty Malone  
County Commissioner



409 Missouri Avenue  
Deer Lodge, MT 59722  
406-846-3680

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
POWELL COUNTY, MONTANA

BUFFALO DESIGNATION FOR POWELL COUNTY

2011-7

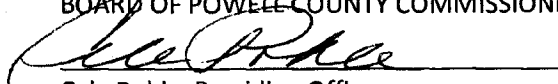
WHEREAS, wild buffalo have created numerous management problems for the State of Montana. Any future distribution of wild buffalo would only increase the problems, and

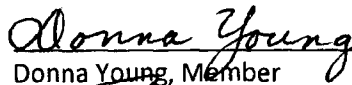
WHEREAS, the only protection from wild buffalo to Powell County's citizens, wildlife, open space and the Montana livestock industry, has been from the Montana Department of Livestock.

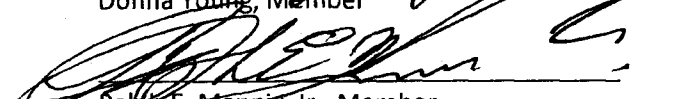
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, all buffalo in Powell County will be considered domestic livestock, regardless of origin. As domestic livestock, they will be under the same rules and regulations from the Montana Department of Livestock uses for all classes of livestock. Buffalo will be subject to any state or local laws that regulate livestock.

Done this 26<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2011.

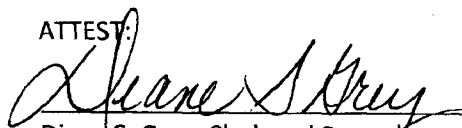
BOARD OF POWELL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
Cele Pohle, Presiding Officer

  
Donna Young, Member

  
Ralph E. Mannix, Jr., Member

ATTEST:

  
Diane S. Grey, Clerk and Recorder

## MACOleg

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**From:** Pohle, Cele [cpohle@co.powell.mt.us]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 26, 2011 9:27 PM  
**To:** davelewis@aol.com  
**Cc:** 'Gene V.'; matthiner@hotmail.com; Rep. Mike Miller, HD84  
**Subject:** FW: SB 212

Here is our testimony for SB 212

***Cele Pohle***  
***Powell County Commissioner***  
***409 Missouri Ave***  
***Deer Lodge, Mt 59722***  
**email:** [cpohle@co.powell.mt.us](mailto:cpohle@co.powell.mt.us)  
**phone 406-846-3680**

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**From:** Pohle, Cele  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 26, 2011 9:17 PM  
**To:** [senatorbrenden@gmail.com](mailto:senatorbrenden@gmail.com)  
**Cc:** [joebalyeat@yahoo.com](mailto:joebalyeat@yahoo.com); [grt3177@smtel.com](mailto:grt3177@smtel.com); [facey\\_tom@hotmail.com](mailto:facey_tom@hotmail.com); [steve.gallus@gmail.com](mailto:steve.gallus@gmail.com); [wranglergallery@hotmail.com](mailto:wranglergallery@hotmail.com); [ghinklesd7@gmail.com](mailto:ghinklesd7@gmail.com); [larry@imt.net](mailto:larry@imt.net); [SenatorWittich@montana.com](mailto:SenatorWittich@montana.com)  
**Subject:** SB 212

Chairman Brenden and Committee Members,

Powell County Commissioners regret that we cannot testify in person on this important Senate Bill. Other duties prevent us from attending the hearing, please add this support as testimony into the official record.

We applaud Senator Ripley and his bill. We believe that public input at the impacted county is crucial in any management plan the FWP would want to implement. Hopefully, public comment would have some weighted value on the implementation of the introduction of wild buffalo or bison in a county.

Private property rights of adjoining landowners should always come first. The alleged Good Neighbor Policy of FWP needs to be reviewed. It is imperative that damages would be paid at a fair value and quickly.

The prime proposal and purpose of the acquisition of any of the FWP land is usually stated in the objectives of their proposed action. We believe that Section 6 of SB 212 sums up the limited WMA's that would be available for the relocation or reintroduction of bison/buffalo. We know that the acquisition of a WMA in Powell County with NRD funds was to permanently protect fish and wildlife resources, enhance winter habitat for elk, mule deer, and antelope-provide lasting public access to previously inaccessible lands. There was no mention of Buffalo or bison in any of the documents that we saw. We do believe that we would have remember and questioned the advisability of that in a cow production county.

We appreciate Senator Ripley's efforts for all of rural Montanans on Senate Bill 212

Powell County supports and recommends a Do Pass on Senate Bill 212

**Cele Pohle**  
**Powell County Commissioner**  
**409 Missouri Ave**  
**Deer Lodge, Mt 59722**  
**email: [cpohle@co.powell.mt.us](mailto:cpohle@co.powell.mt.us)**  
**phone 406-846-3680**



# McCone County

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Circle, Montana 59215

(406) 485-3500 • Fax (406) 485-2689

January 26, 2011

**Senate Fish and Game Committee**

Senator John Brenden, Chairman

Senator Joe Balyeat, Vice Chairman

Senator Debby Barrett

Senator Tom Facey

Senator Steve Gallus

Senator Bradley Hamlett

Senator Greg Hinkle

Senator Larry Jent

Senator Jim Shockley

Senator Art Wittich

**RE: SB 212**

For the record, I am Connie Eissinger, McCone County Commissioner. My family has farmed and ranched west of Brockway for one year short of a hundred years.

The McCone County Commissioners and my family supports Senate Bill 212, clarifying the authority of the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks to manage wild and domestic buffalo or bison, eliminating rulemaking authority, and requiring a management plan before wild buffalo or bison may be released or transplanted onto private or public land.

The efforts made by members of this legislature to protect and defend the livelihood of agricultural producers are greatly appreciated by Montana county commissioners, as well as farmers and ranchers.

As many of you know, Fish, Wildlife, and Parks recently toured the state, holding public informational meetings as a forewarning that we, in agriculture, had to get used to the idea that there are going to be free-roaming bison and that we can do nothing to change the direction of this movement.

One of the meetings was held in Circle. Around 70 farmers and ranchers, along with a few townspeople attended the meeting. Senator Jim Peterson and Senator Taylor Brown were in attendance, as well, and we appreciated their attendance greatly. The questions asked and a great number of valid concerns were aired in complete opposition to the proposal. At the end of the meeting, one of McCone County's former county commissioners asked for a show of hands of those in opposition to the Fish, Wildlife and Parks proposal to put free-roaming bison somewhere in Eastern Montana. Every hand—all 70 went up. There is no support for this proposal.

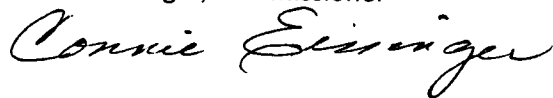
Senate Bill 212 puts in place necessary safeguards to control bison and prevent the issues that will surely arise between Fish, Wildlife and Parks and farmers and ranchers who have built their operations through generations of hard work.

**Please vote to support SB 212.** Thank you.

Sincerely,

On Behalf of the McCone County Commissioners

Connie Eissinger, Commissioner

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Connie Eissinger". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the printed name of the commissioner.

*Breeding Stock : Replacement Stock***BEEF COWS & HEIFERS THAT HAVE CALVED**  
Inventory by Counties, January 1, 2010, Montana, USA

Last updated April 20, 2010

| County and District | 2010           | Rank |
|---------------------|----------------|------|
| Deer Lodge          | 4,100          | 53   |
| Flathead            | 5,000          | 51   |
| Granite             | 18,200         | 38   |
| Lake                | 30,500         | 20   |
| Lincoln             | 1,600          | 55   |
| Mineral             | 400            | 56   |
| Missoula            | 4,600          | 52   |
| Powell              | 26,000         | 26   |
| Ravalli             | 15,600         | 42   |
| Sanders             | 13,000         | 47   |
| Other               | --             | --   |
| <b>NORTHWEST</b>    | <b>119,000</b> | --   |
| Blaine              | 46,000         | 7    |
| Chouteau            | 27,500         | 24   |
| Glacier             | 28,700         | 21   |
| Hill                | 16,500         | 41   |
| Liberty             | 6,200          | 50   |
| Phillips            | 51,000         | 3    |
| Pondera             | 18,300         | 36   |
| Teton               | 24,000         | 29   |
| Toole               | 14,800         | 44   |
| Other               | --             | --   |
| <b>N.CENTRAL</b>    | <b>233,000</b> | --   |
| Daniels             | --             | --   |
| Dawson              | 25,700         | 27   |
| Garfield            | 41,200         | 12   |
| McCone              | 21,200         | 33   |
| Richland            | 32,000         | 18   |
| Roosevelt           | 23,700         | 30   |
| Sheridan            | --             | --   |
| Valley              | 35,600         | 14   |
| Other               | 38,600         | --   |
| <b>NORTHEAST</b>    | <b>218,000</b> | --   |
| Broadwater          | 11,800         | 48   |
| Cascade             | 49,000         | 4    |

|   |                  |           |
|---|------------------|-----------|
| <b>Fergus</b>   | <b>68,000</b>    | <b>1</b>  |
| Golden Valley   | 11,800           | 48        |
| Judith Basin  | 41,500           | 11        |
| Lewis & Clark   | 28,000           | 23        |
| Meagher   | 26,400           | 25        |
| Musselshell   | 34,500           | 15        |
| Petroleum   | 17,000           | 39        |
| Wheatland   | 20,000           | 34        |
| Other   | --               | --        |
| <b>CENTRAL</b>  | <b>308,000</b>   | <b>--</b> |
| Beaverhead  | 63,000           | 2         |
| Gallatin  | 18,300           | 36        |
| Jefferson   | 15,000           | 43        |
| Madison   | 42,000           | 10        |
| Silver Bow  | 2,700            | 54        |
| Other   | --               | --        |
| <b>SOUTHWEST</b>  | <b>141,000</b>   | <b>--</b> |
| Big Horn  | 48,000           | 6         |
| Carbon  | 25,000           | 28        |
| Park  | 31,400           | 19        |
| Stillwater  | 21,700           | 32        |
| Sweetgrass  | 28,300           | 22        |
| Treasure  | 13,800           | 45        |
| Yellowstone   | 40,800           | 13        |
| Other   | --               | --        |
| <b>S.CENTRAL</b>  | <b>209,000</b>   | <b>--</b> |
| Carter  | 45,000           | 9         |
| Custer  | 33,500           | 16        |
| Fallon  | 32,500           | 17        |
| Powder River  | 48,500           | 5         |
| Prairie   | 18,400           | 35        |
| Rosebud   | 45,500           | 8         |
| Wibaux  | 13,600           | 46        |
| Other   | --               | --        |
| <b>SOUTHEAST</b>  | <b>237,000</b>   | <b>--</b> |
| <b>MONTANA</b>  | <b>1,465,000</b> | <b>--</b> |
| -- Counties with no head or counties that are combined into "other" counties to avoid disclosure of individual information. |                  |           |

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# Market-Year-Average Prices Received by Montana Farmers 1/

| Commodity        | Unit | 1990  | 1995  | 1990  | 1995  | 2000   | 2005   | 2006 2/ | 2009 3/ |
|------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|---------|---------|
| Dollars          |      |       |       |       |       |        |        |         |         |
| All Wheat        | Bu   | 4.14  | 3.47  | 2.65  | 4.63  | 3.02   | 3.63   | 6.64    | 5.15    |
| Winter Wheat     | Bu   | 3.90  | 3.28  | 2.53  | 4.62  | 2.87   | 3.51   | 6.31    | 4.75    |
| Spring Wheat     | Bu   | 4.15  | 3.64  | 2.80  | 4.59  | 3.03   | 3.60   | 7.36    | 5.55    |
| Durum Wheat      | Bu   | 5.75  | 3.18  | 2.72  | 5.09  | 3.52   | 3.45   | 9.69    | 5.40    |
| Barley           | Bu   | 2.83  | 2.03  | 2.30  | 3.00  | 2.38   | 2.92   | 5.78    | 4.70    |
| Oats             | Bu   | 1.96  | 1.50  | 1.25  | 1.75  | 1.13   | 1.63   | 3.07    | 2.85    |
| Alfalfa Hay      | Ton  | --    | --    | 65.00 | 67.50 | 66.50  | 71.00  | 117.00  | 96.00   |
| Beef Cattle      | Cwt  | 58.00 | 47.60 | 70.60 | 59.80 | 78.30  | 104.00 | 87.50   | 76.30   |
| Steers & Heifers | Cwt  | 68.30 | 58.40 | 83.30 | 66.70 | 68.30  | 114.00 | 100.00  | 94.50   |
| Beef Cows        | Cwt  | 44.80 | 35.70 | 51.00 | 37.90 | 39.50  | 55.10  | 47.70   | 43.40   |
| Calves           | Cwt  | 76.80 | 62.20 | 95.30 | 69.50 | 103.00 | 136.00 | 109.00  | 108.00  |
| Sheep            | Cwt  | 17.70 | 17.60 | 17.60 | 26.80 | 31.40  | 43.30  | 19.00   | 31.10   |
| Lambs            | Cwt  | 61.70 | 66.80 | 48.30 | 61.40 | 64.50  | 124.00 | 101.00  | 101.00  |
| Hogs, All        | Cwt  | 37.20 | 36.50 | 50.00 | 39.10 | 39.80  | 53.10  | 40.90   | 47.10   |
| Chickens         | Lb   | .08   | .07   | .045  | .030  | .015   | .006   | .001    | .001    |
| Eggs             | Doz  | .58   | .51   | .68   | .57   | .46    | .374   | 0.998   | .773    |
| Milk, All        | Cwt  | 12.80 | 13.10 | 13.70 | 13.30 | 12.80  | 15.30  | 19.00   | 14.60   |
| Wool             | Lb   | 1.00  | .67   | .91   | 1.23  | .37    | .98    | 1.40    | 1.10    |

1/ Crops are season average prices for each crop's respective marketing year. Other prices are averages weighted by monthly sales. 2/ Revised.  
3/ Preliminary. -- Not available.

## Montana's Rank in the Nation's Agriculture

| ITEM   | TOTAL       | UNIT             | PERIOD OR DATE | RANK | % U.S. Total |
|--|-------------|------------------|----------------|------|--------------|
| Number of farms and ranches                              | 29,600      | farms/ranches    | 2009           | 31   | 1.4          |
| Land in farms and ranches                                | 60,800,000  | acres            | 2009           | 2    | 6.6          |
| Average Farm Size  | 2,040       | acres            | 2009           | 3    | N/A          |
| INCOME FROM CASH RECEIPTS, EXCLUDING GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS |             |                  |                |      |              |
| Total  | 2,901,657   | thousand dollars | 2008           | 34   | 0.9          |
| Crops  | 1,722,068   | thousand dollars | 2008           | 30   | 0.9          |
| Livestock  | 1,179,589   | thousand dollars | 2008           | 32   | 0.8          |
| LIVESTOCK INVENTORY                                      |             |                  |                |      |              |
| All Cattle and Calves                                    | 2,550,000   | head             | Jan. 1, 2010   | 11   | 2.7          |
| All Cows   | 1,460,000   | head             | Jan. 1, 2010   | 9    | 3.7          |
| Beef Cows  | 1,465,000   | head             | Jan. 1, 2010   | 6    | 4.7          |
| Milk Cows  | 15,000      | head             | Jan. 1, 2010   | 39   | 0.2          |
| Cattle on Feed   | 26,000      | head             | Jan. 1, 2010   | 24   | 0.2          |
| All Sheep and Lambs                                      | 255,000     | head             | Jan. 1, 2010   | 7    | 4.5          |
| Breeding Sheep   | 235,000     | head             | Jan. 1, 2010   | 6    | 5.6          |
| Meat Goats   | 9,000       | head             | Jan. 1, 2010   | 37   | 0.4          |
| Milk Goats   | 2,700       | head             | Jan. 1, 2010   | 32   | 0.8          |
| Hogs and Pigs  | 175,000     | head             | Dec. 1, 2009   | 25   | 0.3          |
| Chickens   | 540,000     | head             | Dec. 1, 2009   | 35   | 0.1          |
| LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION                                     |             |                  |                |      |              |
| Calf Crop  | 1,460,000   | head             | 2009           | 7    | 4.1          |
| Lamb Crop  | 235,000     | head             | 2009           | 5    | 6.4          |
| Pig Crop   | 431,000     | head             | 2009           | 25   | 0.4          |
| Wool Production  | 2,150,000   | pounds           | 2009           | 7    | 7.0          |
| Egg Production   | 107,000,000 | eggs             | 2009           | 35   | 0.1          |
| Honey Production   | 10,220,000  | pounds           | 2009           | 4    | 7.1          |
| CROP PRODUCTION  |             |                  |                |      |              |
| All Wheat  | 176,625,000 | bushels          | 2009           | 3    | 8.0          |
| Winter Wheat   | 89,540,000  | bushels          | 2009           | 4    | 5.9          |
| Durum Wheat  | 16,585,000  | bushels          | 2009           | 3    | 15.2         |
| Other Spring Wheat                                       | 70,500,000  | bushels          | 2009           | 3    | 12.1         |
| Barley   | 41,040,000  | bushels          | 2009           | 3    | 18.1         |
| Oats   | 1,792,000   | bushels          | 2009           | 17   | 1.9          |
| All Hay  | 4,770,000   | tons             | 2009           | 13   | 3.2          |
| Alfalfa Hay  | 3,570,000   | tons             | 2009           | 8    | 5.0          |
| Other Hay  | 1,200,000   | tons             | 2009           | 23   | 1.6          |
| Dry Beans  | 242,000     | cwt              | 2009           | 13   | 1.0          |
| Pinto Beans  | 224,000     | cwt              | 2009           | 9    | 2.1          |
| Garbanzo Beans   | 18,000      | cwt              | 2009           | 6    | 1.2          |
| Lentils  | 1,601,000   | cwt              | 2009           | 2    | 27.3         |
| Dry Edible Peas  | 3,006,000   | cwt              | 2009           | 2    | 17.5         |
| Austrian Winter Peas                                     | 56,000      | cwt              | 2009           | 2    | 30.8         |
| Fall Potatoes  | 3,347,000   | cwt              | 2009           | 13   | 0.9          |
| Sugar Beets  | 1,001,000   | tons             | 2009           | 6    | 3.4          |
| Flaxseed   | 160,000     | bushels          | 2009           | 3    | 2.2          |
| Safflower  | 23,485,000  | pounds           | 2009           | 2    | 9.7          |
| Canola   | 10,790,000  | pounds           | 2009           | 6    | 0.7          |
| Corn for Grain   | 3,952,000   | bushels          | 2009           | 37   | 1/           |
| Corn for Silage  | 1,035,000   | tons             | 2009           | 25   | 1.0          |

1/ Less than one-tenth of one percent.

US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
STEVE ANDERSON, DIRECTOR, MONTANA FIELD OFFICE

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
RON DE YONG, DIRECTOR